why Central Warehousing Corporation has not initiated any action for having its own constructed Regional Office and Construction Cell and Warehouse at Barasat, Lake Depot as assured by the Food Minister earlier.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : For construction of Central Warehousing Corporation's own office building for Regional Office/Construction Cell at Calcutta, the Corporation have booked 1,000 sq. ft. space with Calcutta port Trust authorities in response to their advertisement for building office complex.

Construction of Warehouse at Barasat would depend interalia upon availability of suitable and viable business.

For setting up of a Warehouse at Lake Depot, no land is available in this locality for the purpose. As such there is no proposal for construction of Warehouse at Lake Depot of Calcutta by the Corporation.

Theft incidents at CWC

5062. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two theft incidents took place at CWC, C.K. Road, as a consequence of which 6 group 'C' and 'D' employees were penalised by suspending them by the CWC management ; and

(b) why the suspension orders have not been revoked against them till finalisation of enquiry by the management or police authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that at Central Warehouse, C.K. Road, two thefts had occurred on 29-10-92 and 24-7-93. In one of the theft incidents, one Junior Technical Assistant, 3 Warehouse Assistants Grade II, and one chowkidar were placed under suspension as they were held under lock-up by police for more than 48 hours. In the 2nd incident of theft, another chowkidar was placed under suspension. In view of the seriousness of the irregularities/allegation, the Suspension Review Committee as well as the competent authority have not considered it appropriate to revoke the suspension order at this stage.

Closing of hired godowns in Calcutta by CWC

5063. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the inadequate business, CWC Calcutta closed a number of hired godowns since 1991 although the same have been hired for low rent ;

(b) what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what are the reasons for the non-completion of construction work of CWC Bonhooghly, CFS, Calcutta by the construction cell within the prescribed time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Central Warehousing Corporation had closed a number of hired godowns in Calcutta since 1991 due to the following reasons :—

1. Withdrawal of reservations by bulk depositors viz FCI, STC etc. where godowns were hired for their exclusive use.

2. Due to continued financial losses and inadequate business.

3. On account of unstorage worthy conditions of the godowns.

(c) The Corporation is setting up 18,000 Metric Tonnes capacity godowns at Bonhooghly. The above work was awarded in July 1992 and was to be completed in two years i.e. upto July, 1994. One godown of 5000 Metric Tonnes is nearing completion and balance capacity is also at roof level. All efforts are being made to complete entire capacity in the targeted period.